

RINALDI, DEFECTOR

NATIONAL REVIEW

April 11, 1967

Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP69B00369R000200090027-6

#### IN THE BACKGROUND

##### COEXISTENCE, SOVIET STYLE

On March 15, Italian counterespionage agents picked up Antonio Girard, a chauffeur who had been showing entirely too much interest in the movements of Stalin's daughter during her brief Italian stay. Girard led them to his employers, parachutist Giorgio ("The Flying Madman") Rinaldi-Ghisieri and Rinaldi's wife, Angela. Under questioning, Rinaldi told all and produced the names of three hundred persons involved in Soviet spy operations on NATO installations from Scandinavia to Somaliland. In short order: a Soviet attaché in Rome was picked up by Italian police, his pockets full of microfilmed information on U.S. bases in Spain, and expelled; a Soviet diplomat and a Russian civilian were deported from Cyprus and five

Cypriots held on charges of espionage; police moved in on a Communist spy group in Greece; and Italian sources reported other arrests in Spain and Switzerland. Swiss authorities in Lausanne deny reports of arrests but admit that the Rinaldi ring was active there, and indicate there may be jailings. So far no American or other West European military men have been picked up but the Rome reports indicate a number of them appeared on Rinaldi's roster of suspects.

The disclosure of this major Soviet infiltration of Western defenses—it might turn into the biggest espionage operation of the cold war—came the same week the U.S. flag was hauled down at the late NATO headquarters outside Paris; the week after the U.S. Senate approved the Consular Accord; the week before the Pentagon reported that the Soviet Union is supplying North Vietnam with 75% of its military supplies, and has been for over a year.